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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014609 TOSEC 010049

70
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
C-MR. SHINN
H-MR. JENKINS
EUR-MR. EWING
S/S-O:JHOGANSON
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O 210204Z JAN 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014609 TOSEC 010049

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN VANIK ON SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY

REF: FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM H DAILY ACTIVITIES REPORT DATED JANUARY 19. WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE AWARE OF SUBSTANCE BEFORE YOUR MEETINGS.

2. "CONGRESSMAN VANIK TELEPHONED JENKINS TODAY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE WASHINGTON POST STORY ON REFORMS IN SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY, IN YESTERDAY'S PAPER. VANIK SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT IF THE STORY IS ACCURATE IT COMES VERY CLOSE TO A KIND OF SIGNAL WHICH HE FELT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REINTERPRET THE JACKSON-VANIK ACT. VANIK SAID, "IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE SOVIETS MAY NOW BE MOVING, MOST OF WHAT IS REPORTED IS EXACTLY WHAT I RECOMMENDED WHEN I WAS IN MOSCOW AND WHAT I ALSO SUGGESTED TO DOBRYNIN."
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3. COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE (BY ROBERT TOTH) AND VANIK'S INTERPRETATION ARE CORRECT, THE SOVIETS MAY CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE GIVING A SIGNAL OF SORTS, OR BEING RESPONSIVE TO WHAT VANIK TOLD THEM, AND COULD TAKE THIS LINE DURING ANY DISCUSSION OF TRADE-EMIGRATION ISSUE. WE HAVE CABLED THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE TO THE EMBASSY AND AND ASKED FOR ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND FOR EMBASSY COMMENTS. EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIRECT INPUT. SISCO

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